

Weekly Column for April 22

As everyone knows the annual Earth Day Cleanup is set to take place this Saturday in more than 30 different spots around the City of Troy.

I could not be happier with the expected turnout, and hope everyone enjoys their day cleaning up the City. I'll be in two places at once this weekend. First on Saturday, I'll be helping out City Hall employees in the morning hours in Riverfront Park. Later I'll be traveling around Troy to stop by and say hello to other project coordinators and their volunteers.

Instead of Earth Day serving as a once-a-year program in 2004, we're hoping the new attitude instilled by the Action Team will carry over to everyday in Troy. We should be proud of the great City that we have, and everyone should do all in his or her power to keep it clean.

Don't forget on Sunday there is the annual Earth Day Festival in Riverfront Park. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Rensselaer County for putting the festival together, as well as the Mt Ida Preservation Society, specifically Miles Blakeborough and Brant Caird, for their hard work.

The festival has many exciting musical acts to go along with information booths, crafts, and food. I hope anyone who gets the chance to stop by will do so between Noon and 6 p.m. It is a chance too not only enjoy the Earth Day Weekend, but also offers up a chance to take in Riverfront Park. It is a tremendous asset we have, and we need to do more to promote it.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the festival because I will be in New York City, and no, I will not be at the Yankees Red-Sox game. Instead, I've been invited to speak in Times Square for a remembrance of the Armenian Genocide. This is a cause near and dear to my heart, my family, and many of my close friends.

So while I cannot join you for Sunday's festival, I will be thinking of everyone, particularly if the weather is nice.

One final note is that this week in Troy has been named Crime Victims Rights Week in the memory of Arica Lynn Schneider, who was viciously murdered more than two years ago. I spent last Sunday with Arica's family, and I hope they know we are doing all in our power to find whoever is responsible for killing her.

On a happy note though I hope everyone enjoys the upcoming weekend.

As usual, if you have any questions, comments, concerns, or complaints, please do not hesitate to call me at 270-4401 or email me at the Mayors Office.

Harry Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy